

# Reuniting

Airman reconnects with man she cared for after enemy attack on convoy

By Staff Sgt. **Tammie Moore**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Individuals are given the chance to create friendships that last a lifetime during deployments and there are times when these friendships are forged in unexpected ways.

Airman 1st Class Charity Trueblood, 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle operator, faced an experience Dec. 5, 2005 which tested her readiness and forged a friendship for life with Robert Martin, KBR heavy truck driver.

Airman Trueblood volunteered to be a driver on a convoy that day, and it started like many of the others she had been on since arriving at Balad Air Base.

The convoy tasked Airmen from the 732nd ELRS, Detachment 2632, to provide a security escort for KBR employees who were moving supplies into and out of Forward



Photo by Airman 1st Class Clay Lancaster

**Airman 1st Class Charity Trueblood, 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, points out the exit wound of the bullet that Robert Martin, KBR, took while on a convoy just outside the perimeter of Balad Air Base. Airman Trueblood performed self-aid buddy care on Mr. Martin after the attack.**

## Protecting others



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## Preventing FOD



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## Ready to save lives



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Photos by Airman 1st Class Jessica Fuentes

## EMDG changes commanders

(Left to right) Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, Col. Eli Powell and Col. Donald Taylor, both from the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, stand at attention during the presentation of the flags. Colonel Taylor assumed command of the 332nd EMDG from Colonel Powell Tuesday.



Col. Donald Taylor assumed command of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group in a ceremony held Tuesday.

## COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

As a service for Balad Airmen, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing operates the Commander's Action Line program.

The line is a way for Balad Air Base members to get answers to questions or express concerns about life on the base. Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd AEW commander, gives action line queries his personal attention. The *Red Tail Flyer* will publish those items that are judged to be of general interest to the Balad Air Base population.

In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns.

The Commander's Action Line can be reached via e-mail at [redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil). Those using the action line should include name, unit and phone number in case additional information is needed and for a timely response.

**Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, meets with Airmen and Soldiers from the Quick Response Force's Bravo/ 2-9 Calvary.**



Photo by Airman 1st Class Clay Lancaster

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing  
Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc  
Wing Commander

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<http://www.afnews.af.mil/iraq/baladarchive/current.pdf>





Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

(Left to right) Joseph Wendl, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, plays a game of foosball against his son, Senior Airman Paul Wendl, 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron.

## Father, son serve at Balad

Wendls experience their first deployment together

By Staff Sgt. **Tammie Moore**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

After learning of an upcoming deployment, people generally try to seek out information about their destination from others they know who have been there before.

Joseph Wendl, a retired Air Force captain, was placed in a unique situation when he learned about his upcoming deployment to Balad.

As Mr. Wendl, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron engineer, prepared for his deployment, he was able to get information about Balad from his son who was already serving here.

Senior Airman Paul Wendl, 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, arrived at Balad in September, so he had a few months of experience here to share with his father. This knowledge made Mr. Wendl, well prepared for his December arrival in the theater.

"Paul kept telling me how nice it was here," Mr. Wendl said. "He really helped prepare me for the deployment."

When father and son first found out they would be deployed to the same location, they were thrilled.

"I was very excited because I have not spent much time with my dad in the last few years," Airman Wendl said.

Mr. Wendl decided he would let his arrival in Iraq be a holiday surprise for his son.

"I told him about when I was coming but I did not tell him exactly when I was arriving," Mr. Wendl said. "When I got here on Christmas Eve, I found his room and woke him up."

Airman Wendl said, "I was excited to spend time with him."

The two make it a point to get together at least three times a week to spend time together.

"We play pool, cards, eat and see movies together," Airman Wendl said. "We have also seen where the other works."

The experience has helped bring the two closer together.

Mr. Wendl said, "This is the most I have seen my son since he joined the military three years ago. I am thankful, very thankful, for whatever time we have together because I have the best son possible. I am really proud of Paul."

## BALAD AIR BASE NEWS NOTES

### H6 Rec. Tent events

The following events are scheduled to be held at the H6 Recreation Tent:

- ◆ a Salsa dance today at 8 p.m.
- ◆ Bingo Saturday at 8 p.m.
- ◆ Salsa class Sunday at 7 p.m.
- ◆ a NBA Live '06 Tournament Sunday at 8 p.m.

### H6 Fitness Center events

The following events are scheduled to be held by the H6 Fitness Center:

- ◆ a Push-up Tournament Saturday at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Sports Day Sunday at 1 p.m. at the H6 basketball and volleyball courts

### Coed touch rugby

The coed touch rugby club is looking for individuals of any skill level who are interested in playing touch rugby. Training is held Sundays at 4 p.m. on Killeen Pitch. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Dave Delozier at 443-7921 or send an e-mail to [delozierd@yahoo.com](mailto:delozierd@yahoo.com).

### Educational opportunities

Individuals interested in earning college credit while deployed can schedule a College Level Examination Program test through the Balad Education Office. For more information, visit <http://intranet.blab.ds.af.mil/332%20SVS/Education%20Center.htm> or call 443-6953.

### Skating safety gear

All personnel who roller skate, inline skate or skateboard, must wear an approved Consumer Product Safety Commission, American National Standard Institute, Snell Memorial Foundation or host-nation certified helmet. In addition to an approved helmet, the wear of elbow pads, kneepads and wrist guards is required for participants utilizing dedicated skate parks, are-

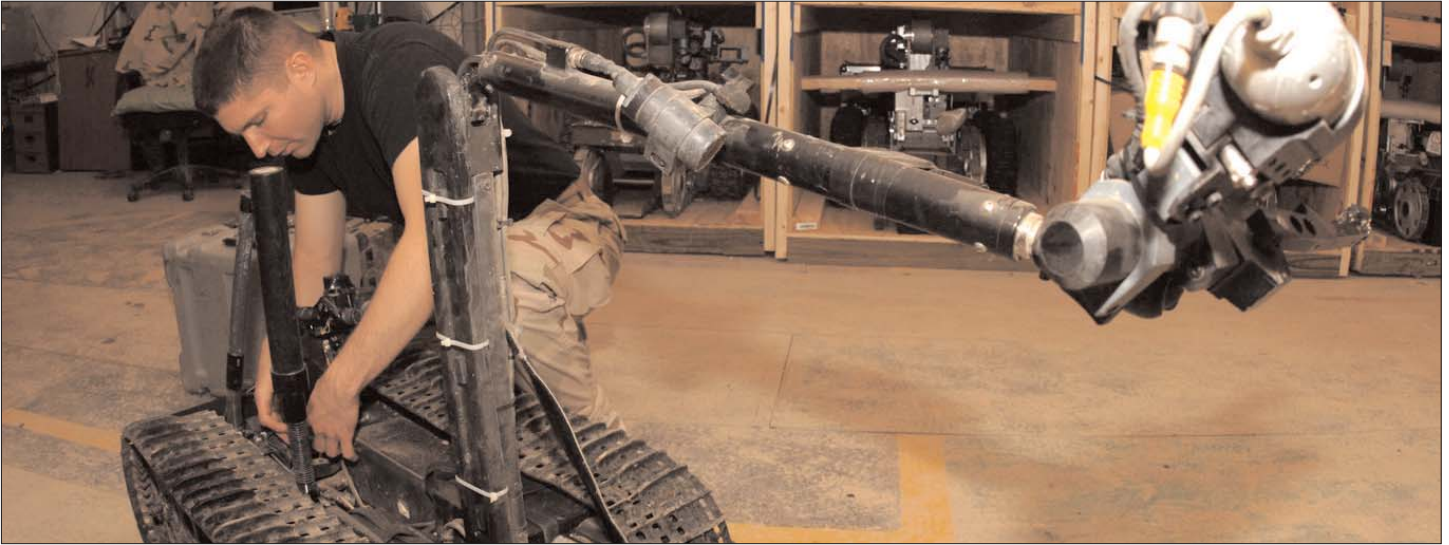


Photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Fuentes

**Staff Sgt. Glenn Wright, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal, repairs an EOD robot used to scope the area before going out to the site.**

# EOD working to protect others

By Staff Sgt. **Tammie Moore**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

It takes a special kind of person to deal with the stress of working with explosives.

That pressure is the force that drives 34 Airmen assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight located at Balad and spread across five forward operating bases.

Staff Sgt. Micah Jobe, 332nd ECES EOD team leader, is one of the Airmen at Balad who responds daily to unexploded ordnance found on and off the installation.

"An average day for us consists of waking up to do physical training, if we are not woken up to respond to calls; then we go to a morning meeting to receive a briefing on the things we learned from the day before," Sergeant Jobe said.

After that the Airmen complete office work and training until a call comes in.

The calls have continued to come in since Sept. 1, 2005 as EOD Airmen have responded to more than 900 incidents, disposing of approximately 57,000 explosive items totaling more than 7 tons of net explosive weight.

Approximately 95 percent of calls EOD Airmen responded to were off base, said Maj. Arno Bischoff, EOD flight com-

mander. About a third of the responses were made for improvised explosive devices, another third were for post-blast analysis conducted after an IED blows up and the final third were for unexploded ordnance and weapons caches.

Sergeant Jobe said, "When a team is on primary stand-by, we generally get about two calls a day to respond to off base."

When the Airmen respond to these off-base calls they work with an Army Quick Response Force which provides protection for the EOD Airmen outside the wire.

"They are our security the whole time we are off base," Sergeant Jobe said. "They do a good job."

Staff Sgt. Glenn Wright, EOD technician is serving on this fourth deployment and has noticed a few changes to responses over his career.

"Things have changed drastically since I was deployed to Kirkuk (Air Base, Iraq)," Sergeant Wright said. "We are working with the Army more now and I have really enjoyed this."

In addition to assisting with off-base calls, the Soldiers and Airmen work side-by-side running the Joint Defense Operations Center which provides command and control of the defense of Logical Support Area Anaconda and Balad.

During alarm yellow unit post-attack recon teams call discovered UXOs into their Unit Control Center and in turn to the JDOC, which then sends out EOD and crater analysis team.

"Security Forces personnel cordon the area off before we go in," Sergeant Jobe said. "We make sure the area is safe before performing crater analysis — who tries to discover the point of origin. Then we further evaluate the UXO to determine whether or not it is safe to blow it up in place and what protective measures must be implemented if it needs to be destroyed."

In addition to supporting Anaconda and Balad, the 332nd EOD Flight provides EOD support from multiple Army FOBs.

"We provide EOD support to the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division," Major Bischoff said. Overall, EOD is responsible for the battle space around Anaconda, extending out more than 18,000 square miles and forming the largest EOD flight under U.S. Central Command Air Forces.

The Airmen in the flight take pride in their jobs and what they do.

"When you take care of an IED you are essentially saving a life and that is rewarding," Sergeant Jobe said.



# Only you can prevent



By Staff Sgt. **Tammie Moore**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Pebbles are everywhere due to the rain and mud that has been lingering around the installation over the last few weeks. If just one of these stray pebbles makes it onto the flight line it can cause millions of dollars in damage or total destruction to an aircraft.

"Foreign objects can damage an aircraft when items like rocks, mud, sand, tools, pavement fragments, hats, paper clips, rags, trash, ammo, paperwork and even wildlife find their way into an aircraft engines, rotors, props, bays, crew compartment or flight control mechanisms," said Master Sgt. Eric Taylor, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Flight Safety NCO.

A FOD incident can happen at any time during aircraft taxi, takeoff, flight or landing. The results can range from slightly damaging to catastrophic.

"Checking for foreign objects and removing them to a safe place is very important to mishap prevention," Sergeant Taylor said. "It preserves lives, money and prevents unnecessary man-hours spent fixing the damage. Preventing FOD preserves our airpower and combat capability."

Every year FOD incidents cost all branches of the service millions of dollars in wasted man hours each year and sometimes even lives.

"We need to do our part to prevent that cost," Sergeant Taylor said.

The amount of time required to conduct a FOD check varies.

"Don't short change the check by placing a time limit on it," Sergeant Taylor said. "It defeats the purpose of checking in the first place. Also, if you drive off the taxiway or runway onto the dirt, you must do a FOD check as soon as you drive back onto the pavement. The rules and protocol for performing FOD checks do not change during emergency response situations."

There are many ways those entering the flightline can help prevent FOD:



Photo by Senior Airman **Tim Beckham**

**Every vehicle going onto the flightline should be checked for foreign object debris. One pebble or rock can cause millions of dollars worth of damage to aircraft.**

- ◆ Police individual work areas after finishing a job, accounting for all tools, hardware and parts before, during and after a job.
- ◆ If you drop it, find it.
- ◆ If you can't find it, report it so others can help you search for and find it.
- ◆ If you see FOD on the airfield, pick it up.
- ◆ If you brought it in the ECP on your vehicle and tires, remove it before it gets to the taxiway, runway or migrates to an aircraft.
- ◆ After removing FOD from vehicle tires use a broom to sweep it off the pavement. "If you are responding to an emergency, still take the time to do the FOD check," Sergeant Taylor said. "Just because you have emergency lights on or are responding to an emergency doesn't mean you can whiz past the FOD stop. Unless you are truly responding to save a life or limb, stop and perform a check, because not stopping could cause another emergency down the road."

(Left to right) Airman 1st Class Nathan Shaw and Senior Airman John Armstrong inventory 350 pounds of extrication tools on a Stokes Basket. Both Airmen are assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron Fire Prevention Flight.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pamela Anderson

## 332nd ECES fire fighters ready to save lives

By Tech. Sgt. **Pamela Anderson**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Members of the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron Fire Prevention Flight do more than fight fires when necessary. They are ready to respond at a moment's notice. But they, also do so much more.

"In addition to fire and medical calls we respond to HAZMAT, confined space and high angle rescue calls," said Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Raymond, 332nd ECES fire chief. The flight also responds to in-flight emergencies and on-and-off base accidents, like car wrecks.

"The Rescue Air Mobility Squad is a very unique mission," Chief Raymond said. "We have one of only two RAMS teams in the Iraqi area of responsibility."

The RAMS team members are certified members of the fire protection flight who receive additional combat skills training from the Army.

"The RAMS team is assigned to the 732nd ECES but are detailed to the 332nd ECES Fire Department where they perform daily as part of the Fire Protection Flight protecting Balad Air Base and Logistical Support Area Anaconda," Chief Raymond said. "The RAMS team has this

unique mission because firefighters have the tools, training and experience to pull vehicles apart while protecting the occupants, extricate victims and provide emergency medical care prior to their being transported to a medical facility."

The RAMS team consists of 14 members who are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When needed, the team is either transported by medivac helicopter to the incident scene or convoys out to it carrying 350 pounds of extrication tools in a Stokes basket.

Regardless of the mode of transportation, the fire protection flight is able to respond to calls faster than ever thanks to the newly installed 911 system. The system became fully functional in middle of December 2005.

The "virtual" joint dispatch center is manned at two different locations by both the Army Provost Marshall's Office and Air Force Fire Department firefighters who are Department of Defense certified Telecommunicators. Having installation-wide 911 capability has cut one and a half to three minutes off of response times.

Though working in the dispatch center can be slow at times, its impact is not overlooked by those who sit there: "It's not

as exciting or as hands-on as firefighting, but I understand the importance of it," said Airman 1st Class Matthew Clayton, 332nd ECES firefighter. "This is the nerve center of emergency response at Balad."

But even the most advanced dispatch system can't compensate for a flight that is prepared to do their job and that is something Chief Raymond doesn't worry about.

"I was really concerned when I got here," he said. "We only had two (master sergeants), four (technical sergeants) and a lot of one strippers but I can't think of a task or job I've asked them to do that they haven't gotten done."

Chief Raymond also credits the Army firefighters under his command with making the mission here such a success.

"We have seven Army firefighters detailed to the wing from the 452nd Ordnance Company," he said. "We are three groups but we're purple all the way. The combined mission of these three organizations (332nd and 732nd ECES and 452nd Ordnance Company) is to form a cohesive team and provide the best quality and most effective Fire and Emergency Services response and Fire Prevention effort available to our customers on this installation."





Photo by Airman 1st Class Clay Lancaster

**Robert Martin, KRB, shows Airman 1st Class Charity Trueblood, 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, the exit wound of the bullet he took while on a convoy just outside the perimeters of Balad.**

#### Reuniting, from Page 1

Operating Base Speicher.

"I always get a little nervous when we are escorting them," Airman Trueblood said of the KBR employees. "Their vehicles are not armored up."

Mr. Martin, who is an experienced KBR convoy driver, went through his normal routine before the trip started.

"Every time I go out, I think about all of the things I need to do if something bad happens," Mr. Martin said. "This way I will be prepared for anything."

This preparation and training paid off because near the end of the trip the convoy came under small arms fire from the left and the right.

"It looked like someone lit a package of firecrackers off under the left side of vehicle in front of me at first," Mr. Martin said.

Then Mr. Martin felt something hit his shoulder.

"I think I got hit," he said over the radio to the other convoy vehicles. "I was not sure at first if I was actually hit; I had never been shot before. But, when I felt the blood start running down

my side, I knew I had been hit."

Despite his injury Mr. Martin kept driving; his foot never left the floor board of the truck until he had to shift gears due to a blown tire.

"I did not stop because I did not want the rest of the convoy being shot up as well," Mr. Martin said. "Everything happened so fast. My training just kicked in automatically."

After driving out of the kill zone, Mr. Martin's situation didn't improve. His truck got a flat tire which ended up coming off the rim creating a shower of sparks, causing his vehicle to catch fire.

"I was watching him like a hawk," Airman Trueblood said, who was three vehicles behind Mr. Martin. "I was just hoping he would stay on the road and would not wreck his truck."

Mr. Martin said, "The last time I remember looking out of the mirrors I realized the flames of the truck were above the truck's cab. I knew it was time to bail, so I radioed I was going to the right side of the road. I undid my seatbelt but decided to stay in the truck until someone came to get me. I did not know if there still was an enemy threat."

Airman Trueblood pulled her humvee up beside Mr. Martin's truck and her truck commander jumped out to rescue him.

"My truck commander him pulled him away from the truck," Airman Trueblood said.

There were four people in her humvee so the truck commander put Mr. Martin on the hood of her vehicle so they could get outside of the ambush zone to perform self-aid buddy care.

"It is amazing how you think in a time like that," she said. "When we stopped to perform self-aid buddy care, I made sure he was bandaged up and doing OK. Before he was put into another humvee with an empty seat and taken to the medivac point."

Mr. Martin was sent to the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad for medical care and remained there for three days. However, when Airman Trueblood began looking for Mr. Martin he had already been released from the hospital.

"I have volunteered over at the hospital a few times since the convoy and I kept asking people if they knew him," Airman Trueblood said. "I have seen a lot of KBR people and have been asking them if they knew him as well."

Mr. Martin said, "People I know would see me and they had lunch with her."

Finally after more than a month of trying to find one another, the two were reunited Sunday. As the two talked about the incident with other Det. 2632 Airmen, she held his arm like they had known each other for years.

Now that the two were finally able to reconnect, they plan to stay in contact with one another.

This was my first (hopefully last) time to get shot and I was her first patient. That kind of gives us something in common. This was also my birthday, so that makes it even more memorable. Charity has a great "humvee" side manner. She was very calm and professional during the whole situation, as were all that assisted me that night. She is a credit to her unit, the Air Force, and the people that trained her. I hope that someday soon we can reunite again."

# Out, about at Balad



Photo by Airman 1st Class Clay Lancaster

A C-5 Galaxy, a C-17 Globemaster III and a C-130 Hercules receive preflight inspections on the flightline at Balad. The C-5's cargo hold size, the C-17's agility and the C-130's down and dirty capabilities of all contribute to the tactical portion of the airlift mission here in Iraq.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Clay Lancaster

Maj. Gen. Allen Peck (right), Combined Air Operations Center deputy commander, and Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, return from visiting with Airmen working at Balad Air Base and Logical Support Area Anaconda.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shannon Kluge

Senior Airman Andrew Browe, 332nd Communication Squadron, trudges through mud laying out cable. This is done so he can track the cables before they are installed into new C-130 buildings at Balad Air Base, Iraq.

## BALAD AIR BASE UNIFORM TIPS

Spandex shorts and leggings in blue or black may be worn under the Air Force physical training uniform during cold weather. Leggings must be full length. Leggings must be navy blue or black in color. Additional guidelines on legging wear can be found in 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Instruction 36-2903 [Dress and Personal Appearance Standards], section three.

## Balad AB Religious Schedule

### Protestant - Traditional

Sundays  
9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

### Protestant - Gospel

Sundays  
11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

### Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays  
9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 6:30 p.m. Moral and Warfare Recreation Tent 29th SPT BN

Sundays and Wednesdays

7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

### Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays  
10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall

### Latter Day Saints

Sundays  
1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

### Liturgical- Protestant

Sundays

7:30 a.m. Hospital, 8 a.m. Provider Chapel

Samoan Congregational Service

Sundays

4 p.m. Provider Chapel

### Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays through Fridays

7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Saturdays

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626"

Chapel (for Special Ops personnel only)

### Church of Christ

Sunday

2 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

### Islamic Prayer

Fridays

1:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

### Jewish Prayer

Fridays

6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex



## Know what this is?



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at [redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil). Last week's photo was first identified by Master Sgt. Gilberto Perez, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, as a pair of scissors.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

## Silent Heroes

Senior Airman Kathleen Franklin, 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron, is this week's "Silent Hero." She was chosen because she is constantly fielding questions and concerns from those living in H-6 with a smile on her face and in a truly professional manner, said Command Chief Master Sgt. Layton Clark, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief.

# Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



### Today

3 p.m. - Dreamer: Inspired by a True Story  
6 p.m. - Jarhead  
9 p.m. - Grandma's Boy (Premiere showing)  
Midnight - Grandma's Boy

### Saturday, Jan. 21

3 p.m. - Chicken Little  
6 p.m. - Grandma's Boy  
9 p.m. - The Legend of Zorro

### Sunday, Jan. 22

3 p.m. - Grandma's Boy  
6 p.m. - The Legend of Zorro  
9 p.m. - Jarhead

### Monday, Jan. 23

3 p.m. - Prime  
6 p.m. - Grandma's Boy  
9 p.m. - Jarhead

### Tuesday, Jan. 24

3 p.m. - Dreamer: Inspired by a True Story  
6 p.m. - The Legend of Zorro  
9 p.m. - Grandma's Boy

### Wednesday, Jan. 25

3 p.m. - Jarhead  
6 p.m. - Grandma's Boy  
9 p.m. - Chicken Little

### Thursday, Jan. 26

3 p.m. - Grandma's Boy  
6 p.m. - Chicken Little  
9 p.m. - The Legend of Zorro

